

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083020  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 /015 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF/E:KPGARLAND

APPROVED BY:AF/E:RPOST

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R 310747Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083020

FOL ADDIS ABABA 7472 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DJIBOUTI INFO  
MOGADISCIO NAIROBI MAR 29, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU UUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1472

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, DJ, ET, SO, US

SUBJ: FORMAL PROTEST TO MARCH 25 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT  
ON DJIBOUTI DELIVERED

REF: STATE 080082

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) AMERICAN AFFAIRS DEPT  
HEAD BERHANE DRESSA RECEIVED ME AT 1400 GMT TODAY AND I DELIVERED  
TO HIM VERBATIM TEXT OF REFTEL, PARA 2 BEGINNING "THE UNITED  
STATES HAS TAKEN NOTE..." IN FORMHOF DIPLOMATIC NOTE. I EXPRESSED  
MY REGRET TO BERHANE THAT ETHIOPIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON WAS QUITE  
ILL THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEPT TO DELIVER FORMAL PROTEST  
EARLIER. (AS DEPT IS AWARE, WE HAD EARLIER REPORT THAT BERHANE  
FELT LACK OF US PROTEST LENT CREDENCE TO ACCUSATION AND THERE-  
FORE IT MAY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO DOCUMENT THAT USG TRIED EARLIER.)

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BERHANE SAID THAT THEIR CHARGE HAD REPORTED DEPT SPOKESMAN'S  
MARCH 25 DENIAL OF ETHIOPIAN ACCUSATIONS AND THAT HE WAS  
UNAWARE OF THEIR CHARGE'S ILLNESS, BUT WOULD INQUIRE.

2. BERHANE SAID THAT FORMAL DENIAL BY USG WAS QUITE WELCOME AND  
"SOURCE OF COMFORT". HE SAID THAT IF ETHIOPIAN GOVT (EPMG) IS  
WRONG, IT WILL BE HAPPY TO BE WRONG ON THIS MATTER, BUT THAT

EPMG FELT IT NECESSARY TO SPEAK OUT FORCEFULLY NOW TO PREVENT ANOTHER OGADEN-LIKE SITUATION FROM DEVELOPING IN DJIBOUTI. BERTHANE SAID MOFA STATEMENT HAD BEEN BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED TO EPMG THAT US WAS ENCOURAGING SOMALI IRREDENTISM TOWARD DJIBOUTI. BERTHANE ALSO OUTLINED EPMG'S POSITION TOWARD DJIBOUTI IN SOME DETAIL (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) STATING THAT THERE LITTLE OR NO DIFFERENCE IN EPMG VIEW OF SOMALI INTENTIONS TOWARD OGADEN AND DJIBOUTI AND THAT "EPMG WOULD NOT REMAIN IDLE" ABOUT SOMALI EFFORTS TO SUBVERT PRESENT GOVT. DURING MOST PLEASANT CONVERSATION WITH BERTHANE IN RECENT MONTHS, I WAS, NEVERTHELESS, ABLE REITERATE FUTILITY OF FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

3. IN SUM, BERTHANE SEEMED QUITE GLAD TO RECEIVE FORMAL PROTEST AND SAID HE WOULD BRING IT TO ATTENTION OF HIS MINISTER "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". IF BERTHANE'S ATTITUDE IS ANY INDICATION, AND I BELIEVE IT IS, PROTEST MAY HELP REINFORCE POSITION OF SOME MODERATES WITHIN MOFA AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE IN GOVT. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO REMIND DEPT BERTHANE'S REACTIONS NOT NECESSARILY IDENTICAL TO OFFICIAL EPMG POSITION AND WOULD CAUTION AGAINST REPORTING HIS REACTIONS TO PRESS. MATHERON UNQUOTE COOPER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC NOTES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/E:KPGARLAND  
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**Film Number:** D780140-0461  
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**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 80082  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3187692  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORMAL PROTEST TO MARCH 25 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON DJIBOUTI DELIVERED  
**TAGS:** PBOR, DJ, ET, SO, US  
**To:** HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE  
**Type:** TE  
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